A Report on Ray's Plan to Kill King

New York

Author George McMillan says in a new biography that James Earl Ray declared a year before the assassination that he was going to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

McMillan also quotes a former prison acquaintance of Ray as saying Ray declared while still an inmate that "If I ever get to the streets I am going to kill that (King)."

These statements support the basic thesis of McMillan's book, that Ray intended long before the April 1968 assassination to kill King and therefore was acting on his own and not as a hired killer.

This new information is contained in "The Making of an Assassin," published this week by Little, Brown and Co.

The earlier declarations of intent to kill King were related, McMillan says, by Raymond Curtis, who claims to have been a friend of Ray in the Missouri state prison.

It was Curtis who, after the assassination, said that Ray had been hired for the killing by a group of Mississippi businessmen. But McMillan said Curtis admitted to him that this story was false, although [illegible] rumors of such a group who [illegible]

McMillan quotes Curtis as quoting Ray as having [illegible]